RG104 entry 217 box 2

Mint of the United States.

Philadelphia, Feby 19th 1872

Sir:

Your letter of the 9th Instant, in reference to the subject of abrasion of coins, was duly received.

In my Annual Report for the year ending June 30th 1862, a Statement on this subject was made in general terms, with a view to offset some extravagant estimates made in England. To that Report you are respectfully referred.

I will now give a more particular account of weighings made here in August 1860, which was before the war, when metallic money was current, and of course a better time than the present to arive at a satisfactory view of the average condition of coin in the Public Treasury or elsewhere. The trials were on large quantities, worn and unworn, as we usually find them; and without reference to dates, or place of coinage.

The deficit of weight is stated in percentage, as being the best adapted to your purpose.

Double Eagles, were found to be light, one-sixteenth of one per cent.

Eagles, light one-fifth of do.

Half-Eagles, light one-third of do.

Quarter-Eagles, do a little over one-third of do.

Gold Dollars, $\frac{44}{100}$, or nearly one-half of do.

The Silver half dollars were so nearly unworn, that the result did not give a fair idea.

Quarter-Dollars were light $\frac{4}{10}$ of one per cent.

But another lot, more worn, whose average age was 4. 3 years, showed light $\frac{2}{3}$ of one per cent.

I believe the Department is aware that the British Government makes good the loss by abrasion of Silver coin, by giving out new pieces in exchange for worn pieces.

The Seignorage enables them to do that, probably without loss. The small gain on our present Silver coinage would not, in my opinion, justify such an exchange, although in itself both just and desirable, and

RG104 entry 217 box 2

and which could be secured by proper legislation

Yours very Respectfully

J. W. Pollock

Director

Hon J. F. Hartley
Ass't Sec'y of Treasury
Washington
D.C.

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Mint of the United States
Philadelphia
February 19, 1872

Hon. I. F. Hartley
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury
Washington

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Very respectfully,
James Pollock
Director